

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: July 14, 2011 **Agenda Item:** Scoping for 2012-2013 Season Setting

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 30 minutes

Background

Hunting season structures for deer, elk, antelope, moose, sheep, goat, black bear, mountain lion, wolf and upland birds most recently have generally been adopted for two-year intervals (biennium). While regional and other FWP staff routinely engage the public throughout the year, the formal season setting process has historically started with the public introduction of “Tentative” proposals in December of odd years. Opportunity for public comment and public introduction of alternative proposals has been available at this December meeting. Tentative adoptions from this same December meeting are then made available for public comment through most of January. This includes more than 40 meetings, hearings, and open houses across the state. Final proposals and adoptions take place in February so that regulation booklets may be available for spring bear and turkey seasons and nonresident deer and elk license application deadlines.

The 2008–2009 biennial season-setting process generated considerable public comment to FWP and the commission. One recurring criticism of the existing process was it lacked a public participation opportunity prior to tentative proposals being framed by FWP. In response, FWP inserted an additional scoping step into the 2010–2011 season-setting process and intends to do the same for the upcoming 2012 – 2013 season setting process. Taking place during summer and early fall prior to the December meeting, this scoping will include: 1) two additional FWP Commission agenda discussions in July and October; 2) a public comment window in July and August, and 3) one open house in each administrative region.

Public Involvement Process & Results

This agenda item is to provide additional opportunity for the FWP Commission to input directly and early to FWP on process or specific content of the upcoming biennial season setting process.